

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-02 IO-10 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /043 W

----- 019008

R 131814Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO USMISSION USBERLIN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7973

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 02521

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, BW, GW

SUBJECT: ABORTION LAW - DRAFT BK/O

REF: A) BONN 2243; B) USBER 217

SUMMARY: AT FEB 12 TRIPARTITE DISCUSSION OF ABORTION LAW PROBLEM REQUESTED BY BRITISH ON INSTRUCTION FROM FCO, UK AND US SUPPORTED BERLIN SOLUTION FORMULA WHILE FRENCH WENT OVER SAME OBJECTIONS AS STATED IN FEB 7 FRENCH/US DISCUSSION, EVEN HARDENING POSITION AGAINST SOLUTION ALONG LINES PROPOSED BY BERLIN. FRENCH REP AGREED TO PRODUCE PAPER WITH FORMULA THOUGHT ACCEPTABLE TO PARIS. END SUMMARY.

1. ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM LONDON, UK CALLED TRIPARTITE MEETING FEB 12 TO DISCUSS ABORTION LAW PROBLEM. UK REP (CROMARTIE) SAID LONDON CONSIDERED FORMULA DEVELOPED IN BERLIN TO BE VERY GOOD SOLUTION TO PROBLEM AND URGED US AND FRENCH TO ACCEPT IT. US REP RESPONDED THAT WE SUPPORTED BERLIN FORMULA. FRENCH REP (BOISSIEU) SAID HE HAD VERY EXPLICIT INSTRUCTIONS FROM PARIS AND THAT THE PROPOSED SOLUTION WAS ABSOLUTELY UNACCEPTABLE. HE THEN MADE SAME POINTS AS REPORTED REFTEL A.

2. AFTER ENSUING DETAILED DISCUSSION OF MATTER, BOISSIEU RESPONDED TO REQUEST THAT HE ASK PARIS TO RECON-
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SIDER BY SAYING THAT WAS NOT POSSIBLE SINCE HIS FOREIGN

MINISTER HAD PERSONALLY APPROVED HIS CURRENT INSTRUCTIONS AND HAD ALSO INDICATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO DEAL WITH FRG FON MIN GENSCHER ON MATTER TO MAKE CLEAR THAT FRENCH WOULD NOT AGREE TO SOLUTION AS WORKED OUT IN BERLIN. INSTRUCTIONS FROM PARIS SAID ANY ALLIED HELP TO SENAT IN PROBLEM SHOULD BE LIMITED TO BK/L BY WHICH ALLIES WOULD INDICATE ABSENCE OF OBJECTION TO ADOPTION OF ABORTION LAW IN BERLIN WITHOUT SECTION 2 (OR OTHERWISE CHANGED TO COPE WITH EFFECT OF FCC DECISION EXPECTED FEB 25). ACKNOWLEDGING POINT THAT SENAT NEEDS DOCUMENT IT COULD USE PUBLICLY, BOISSIEU SAID HE WOULD DRAFT FOR FURTHER TRIPARTITE DISCUSSION A BK/O "WRITTEN LIKE A BK/L" ALONG THE LINES INDICATED ABOVE WHICH THE SENAT COULD USE. BOISSIEU THOUGHT THAT BY VERY CAREFUL DRAFTING HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO PERSUADE QUAI TO ACCEPT THIS KIND OF SOLUTION.

3. COMMENT: WE HOPE TO RECEIVE FRENCH PAPER YET THIS WEEK AND CONTINUE TRIPARTITE CONSIDERATION EARLY WEEK OF FEB 17. IN LIGHT OF VERY FIRM FRENCH POSITION ON MATTER WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT AND USBER VIEWS ON POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS WHICH MIGHT BRIDGE GAP. HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ABORTION, LAW, INSTRUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BONN02521
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750053-0886
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750248/aaaabqgq.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) BONN 2243; B) USBER 217
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ABORTION LAW - DRAFT BK/O
TAGS: PGOV, BW, GE
To: USBERLIN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006